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## Correspondence.

*On the Hereditary Transmission through Four Generations of an Abnormity.*—Since the publication of Darwin's masterly work *On the Origin of Species*, the hereditary transmission of abnormal peculiarities has attracted a good deal of public attention. As a small contribution to our knowledge of these remarkable cases, I beg to enclose a photograph of an abnormity which has now run through *four* generations. The subject photographed is the second of the family so afflicted, and from what I can learn the following are the facts:—The grandmother of the old lady now portrayed was, during her pregnancy, walking through a farm-yard, when she was attacked by a savage dog and severely lacerated about the hands. On her confinement her child, a boy, presented the following peculiarities: the fingers of both hands were webbed to their extremities; on the outside of the fourth finger of each hand a supplemental one appeared from a little below the ungual phalanx. The thumb of the *right* hand consisted of two distinct metacarpal bones and two first phalanges; the ungual extremity contained three phalanges, the outer and inner ones being terminated by nails. The *left* thumb consisted of one metacarpal bone proper, but there was a separate metacarpus extending from the carpo-metacarpal articulation and passing the metacarpo-phalangeal joint. The ungual extremity contained two phalanges bent at an angle. The child possessing these peculiar hands, on arriving at man's estate, married, and the old lady whose portrait I send was the result of such union. This old lady also married, and has had five children, one son and four daughters; the son and youngest daughter possessed the above peculiarities. The son married, and has had six children, *five* of whom are afflicted in exactly the same manner. The daughter has had two children, both boys, the eldest of which possessed the same abnormal structure of the hands. Thus this strange malformation has, up to the present time, run through *four* generations (three of which I have seen), and possibly may run through many more. To my friend Henry Barber, M.D., I am indebted for the anatomical details, he having made a careful examination of the case.—J. P. MORRIS, F.A.S.L.

*Burnt Human (?) Bones.*—I beg to call attention to a singular mode of interment, which is thus described in a letter addressed to Professor Owen, which he has kindly placed at my disposal:—"1, Holly Terrace, Sunderland, April 10th, 1865,—Sir,—Hearing that the labourers at Gally's Gill, where I found the humerus of the *Bos primigenius*, had come upon somewhat remarkable remains of antiquity, I went thither this afternoon and found a basin-like excavation formed in the limestone rock, nine feet in diameter, and about the same in depth from the grass surface. The side of the basin has evidently been acted on by fire, as you will see from the specimen (A) which I enclose. The body of the basin is filled with substance, of which I enclose specimen (B). A little beyond the western edge of this excavation, and among the clay thrown out from the drift in which the